non-stop service between New Jersey and New Delhi from November;

(b) whether Continental's Delhi-New-york service is being launched in November, 2005 and first scheduled flight will depart New-yorks Liberty International Airport;

(c) if so, what are the other main points of the pact signed between India and US; and

(d) to what extent Indo-US air service is fully improved and helpful to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Continental airlines, a designated airline of USA has already commenced its daily non-stop service between Delhi and New-york with effect from 1st November, 2005.

(c) A revised Air Services Agreement was signed between India and USA in April, 2005 to increase cooperation in the aviation sector. Under this agreement, both sides can designate any number of services to any point in the territory of the other countrty with full intermediate and beyond traffic rights.

(d) The revised India-USA agreement would lead to more flights and better connectivity between the two countries providing more commercial opportunity to all Indian carriers. As a result of this agreement, the deisgnated airlines of India can now operate to any point in USA without any limitation on number of frequencies and Indian scheduled carriers can also code share with the US carriers to serve several points in the country.

Additional Air Services to Orissa

2116. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enhance air traffic in Delhi and Mumbai airports;

(b) if, so the details of the steps proposed to be taken to beef up flight operations across the country; and

(c) the details of additional (to and fro) flights that are proposed to be started from Delhi and Mumbai airports to Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. Subject to these guidelines, airlines are free to provide air services to any place depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability.

Air India's scheme for promotion of tourism

†2117. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan has been started in collaboration with Air India for attracting Indian tourists by many countries;

(b) if so, the details of the plan; and

(c) the extent of profit likely to be earned by Government from this Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air India has entered into an alliance with Tourism Malaysia and Singapore Tourism Board to promote business on Singapore and Kuala Lumpur sectors (which is valid till 31 December, 2005) to attract the outgoing Indian tourists.

(c) Many tangible and intangible benefits would accure to the aviation traval & tourism industry which cannot be quantified.

Improvement of security at Airports

2118. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ordered certain stern security measures to improve safety and security at Indian airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether these additional measures will cause inconvenience to the passengers and delays in passenger handling at the airports?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.